

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of

*

Amendment of Section 73.202(b)
Table of Allotments
(Greenwood and Abbeville, SC)

*

MM Docket No. 97-156
RM-9110

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SUPPLEMENT

Shelley Reid, licensee of WZLA-FM, Abbeville, South Carolina ("Reid"), through undersigned counsel, respectfully submits the following Supplement in the captioned proceeding:

1. Sutton Radiocasting Corp. ("Sutton"), in its Reply Comments (at 2, 4) filed September 17, 1997, has argued that Abbeville Station WABV(AM) "has 'dim' prospects of ever returning to the air as a full-time local service;" and that Sutton's proposal to provide Abbeville a second local FM service is of "heightened significance in light of the 'silent status' of beleaguered Abbeville station WABV-AM."¹

2. Sutton is clearly misinformed with regard to Station WABV. As the attached Exhibits of Mark Hellinger and Robert S. Biermann reflect:

(i) New WABV owner Hellinger, who also owns WYYZ(AM) and

¹ Reid has not previously had the opportunity to comment upon, and provide evidence regarding, this new factual assertion of Sutton concerning WABV's status. Thus, good cause exists for acceptance of the instant Supplement.

WULA(AM), has a track record of restoring silent stations to viable operation (Ex. 1 at 1);

(ii) Hellinger has represented to the FCC that he intends to return WABV to the air to serve Abbeville, SC (Id.);

(iii) To that end, in mid-September of 1997, Hellinger contacted radio engineer Biermann concerning the technical facilities of WABV (Id.; Ex. 2 at 1);

(iv) The following steps have been taken to date to restore the WABV (AM) operations--a new EAS unit has been installed, the main console has been replaced, digital production/automation equipment has been installed, the station's heating and air conditioning has been updated, a network news satellite dish has been installed, and the station's transmitter is being reworked by Biermann (Ex. 2 at 1-2);

(v) Biermann has tested the WABV transmitter and, in his opinion and Hellinger's, the coverage of the station's signal is excellent (Ex. 1 at 1; Ex. 2 at 2); and

(vi) The technical work involved in restoring WABV to the air is expected to be completed this month (Ex. 2 at 2).

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that the factual information contained this Supplement and the Exhibits hereto be considered by the staff in rendering its decision in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

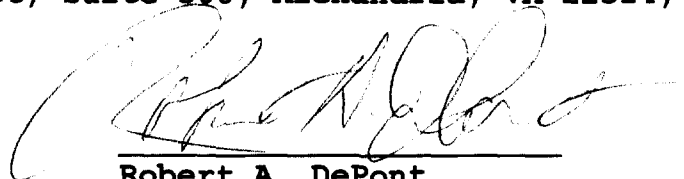


Robert A. DePont
140 South Street
P.O. Box 386
Annapolis, MD 21404
410-263-0632

Counsel for Shelley Reid

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 6th day of October 1997, a copy of the foregoing Supplement was sent by first-class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, to Robert Lewis Thompson, Esquire, Taylor, Thiemann & Aitken, L.C., 908 King Street, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314, Counsel for Petitioner.



Robert A. DePont

EXHIBIT 1

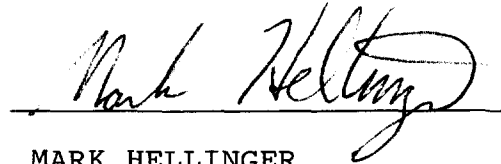
SEPTEMBER 23, 1997

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

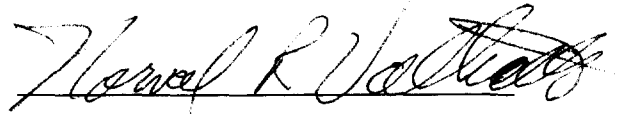
MY NAME IS MARK HELLINGER AND IN MAY OF 1997 I PURCHASED WABV-AM RADIO STATION IN ABBEVILLE, SC. I CURRENTLY OWN AND HOLD LICENSES FOR WYYZ-AM IN JASPER, GA. AND WULA-AM IN EUFAULA, AL. I HAVE BEEN A BROADCASTER FOR ALMOST 25 YEARS. WHEN I PURCHASED WABV, THE STATION WAS OFF THE AIR. SINCE THEN I HAVE AND CONTINUE TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO UPGRADE THE EQUIPMENT. WABV'S SIGNAL IS STRONG FOR A 1KW STATION. I HAVE PERSONALLY HEARD WABV'S SIGNAL MORE THAN TWENTY FIVE MILES FROM THE TOWER WHICH LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THE GROUND SYSTEM IS IN GOOD SHAPE. THE TRANSMITTER IS A RCA-BTA AND STILL OPERATES WELL. I HAVE HAD A FEW PROBLEMS WITH THE TRANSMITTER AND THAT CAN BE EXPECTED FOR HAVING BEEN SITTING FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS. WHEN I EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS I CONTACTED MR. JIM WARREN ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1997. I WAS TOLD HE HAD WORKED ON THIS TRANSMITTER SOME TIME AGO. HE REFUSED TO HELP AT THAT TIME AND SUGGESTED I GET A NEW TRANSMITTER. I THEN CALLED ENGINEER ROBERT BIERMANN WHO CAME TO ABBEVILLE AND FIXED THE PROBLEM. HE TOLD ME I DO NOT NEED A NEW TRANSMITTER. HE ALSO COMMENTED ON THE STRONG SIGNAL. I HAVE TAKEN TWO RADIO STATION THAT WERE OFF THE AIR WHEN I PURCHASED THEM AND MADE THEM VIABLE RADIO STATIONS SERVING THEIR COMMUNITES. THE STATEMENT WAS MADE, "THE FUTURE LOOKS DIM FOR WABV". I RESENT THAT COMMENT AND QUESTION THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE SUCH JUDGEMENTS. I WOULD NOT HAVE PURCHASED WABV IF I THOUGHT IT WOULD FAIL. AS I TOLD THE FCC, I WOULD RETURN WABV BACK TO THE AIR AND SERVE ABBEVILLE, SC.

(2)

I HAVE MET WITH COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS LEADERS AND IN TIME, WABV WILL HAVE THE REPUTATION IT ONCE HAD IN ABBEVILLE AS BEING A GOOD RADIO STATION. IF ANYONE QUESTIONS MY MOTIVES AND THE THE FUTURE OF WABV SERVING THE COMMUNITY, I WELCOME THE CHALLENGE. I HEREBY DECLARE ALL STATEMENTS MADE IN THIS NOTARIZED DOCUMENT TO BE TRUE.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark Hellinger", is written over a horizontal line.

MARK HELLINGER
WABV LICENSEE

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harold R. Voth", is written over a horizontal line.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires December 21, 1999

EXHIBIT 2

Robert S. Biermann
106 Charles St.
Toccoa, GA 30577
1-706-886-4727

September 29, 1997

To Whom it may Concern,

I declare under penalty of perjury the following. I have been asked to write this statement regarding the status and viability of Radio Station WABV in Abbeville, South Carolina. I write this letter because of my current affiliation with the Radio Station and my limited association with previous owners.

First as a matter of background. I am the Director of Engineering for Toccoa Falls College, located in Toccoa, Georgia. I have been in the broadcast industry for 25 years, 18 years primarily in the field of engineering. Toccoa Falls College is the group owner of seven radio stations, and three translators. Along with the Radio properties, we also operate a satellite network feeding programming to 25 broadcast facilities.

I am frequently asked by radio operators, outside of the college, to assist in areas of engineering and special projects.

Recently I was contacted by the current owner of Radio Station WABV to assist in his rebuilding project of the facility. Previous owners have left the station in a serious state of dis-repair. Much work to bring this station up to viable standards *has already been done, and is continuing to be done.*

Already completed has been the installation of a new **Burk** EAS unit, replacement of the main control console and the installation of digital production/automation equipment. Other needed *cosmetic* work has also been competed on the property, with more scheduled to be finished this fall. The buildings heating and air unit is now up-to-date, plus an additional Satellite dish has been installed to add National Network News.

The most major project is a complete re-work of the existing transmitter. The unit is a RCA BT1M 1-kilowatt transmitter. Even though the unit is an older high-level plate modulated transmitter, it is based on the classic and very reliable design, using 833-A final tubes and modulators. There are hundreds, if not thousands of these transmitters built by such companies as Gates/Harris, RCA and others currently in service to this day.

I am currently reworking the transmitter back to quality standards. The priors owners had left the

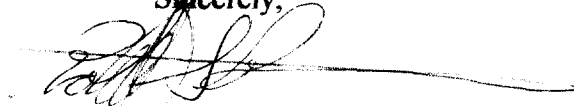
transmitter in an un-reliable state, plus they had "*lost*" the schematics and manuals. A new copy of all the diagrams and book have been obtained, plus most of the needed parts have been located. The re-build will include new transformers and chokes, a complete new set of tubes , and some replacement wiring.

I have operated the transmitter, and the coverage is excellent and the audio quality is up to today's AM broadcast standards. The major problem has been some of the *patch-work* repairs employed by the previous owners of the station.

When my work is completed in October, the station will not be a *broken down old radio station*, in fact, it will be in better shape than many other viable AM or FM facilities operating in the State of South Carolina, including markets vastly larger than Abbeville County.

I can honestly say that the current owner is committed to completing this project. When this project is completed, Abbeville will have *two* viable radio facilities. WABV operating on the AM band, and WZLA on FM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. S. Biermann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert S. Biermann